

CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD

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REPORT OF THE BOARD OF STEWARDS
LOS ANGELES TURF CLUB, INC.
Arcadia, California

TO THE CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD

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Darrel McHargue, Chief Steward

Report for Friday, December 22, 2023, through Monday, January 1, 2024.

GENERAL DATA:

- Dates:** Tuesday, December 26, 2023, through Sunday, April 7, 2024.
Racing Fridays through Sundays. Special Monday racing on January 1, 2024, January 15, 2024, and February 19, 2024.
- Post time:** Weekdays/weekends/holidays -12:30 p.m. unless otherwise specified.
- Scratch time:** Regular scratch time will be at 10:00 a.m. (two days before the race). The official program will be finalized at this time. The deadline for scratches for stakes races (with the exception of overnight stakes races) will be prior to the 3rd race or two hours before post time, whichever is longer.
- Wagering:** Win, place and show wagering (\$2 minimum) on every race; \$1 Exactas on all races; \$0.50 Trifectas on all races; \$0.10 Superfectas and \$1 Super Hi 5 on all qualifying races; \$2 Rolling Doubles; \$0.50 Rolling Pick Threes; \$1 Pick Four on races two thru five and the final four races; \$0.50 Pick Five on first five races and final five races; \$0.20 Rainbow Pick 6 Jackpot (with carryover) on final six races; \$3 Santa Anita All Turf Pick 3, last three turf races on Santa Anita's card offered every race day; \$2 Golden Hour Double, combining the final race at Santa Anita and the final race at Golden Gate Fields; \$1 Golden Hour Pick Four, combining the final two races at Santa Anita and final two races at Golden Gate Fields; \$2 Parlay, combining two to six races in succession (win, place, and show).
- Auxiliary stables:** San Luis Rey Downs and Los Alamitos Race Course.

OFFICERS

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Nate Newby
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Chief Executive Officer, 1st Racing & Gaming
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Senior Vice President
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Brice Blanc
Kevin Colosi
Charles McCaul
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Jay Slender
Jon White
Dane Nelson
Jennifer Paige
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Nolton Pattio, DVM

Steward
Steward
Steward
Safety Steward
Director of Racing & Racing Secretary
Assistant Racing Secretary
Stakes Coordinator
Executive Assistant/Horseman's Liaison
Placing Judge
Placing Judge
Paddock Judge/Patrol Judge
Patrol Judge
Patrol Judge
Clerk of the Scales
Assistant Clerk of Scales
Clerk of the Course
Paymaster of Purses
Starter
Morning Line Maker
Timer
Horse Identifier
Assistant Horse Identifier
Horseshoe Inspector
Official Veterinarian representing CHRB

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Senior Human Resources Generalist
Director of Publicity
Track Photographer
Hornblower
Public Address Commentator

FRIDAY
12/22/23¹

DUTY STEWARD

Steward Kim Sawyer was present to oversee entries for Tuesday, December 26, 2023, opening day of the Santa Anita Classic Meet. Eleven races, including six graded stakes, were assembled by the racing office for the Boxing Day card.

SATURDAY
12/23/23¹

DUTY STEWARD

Once again, Steward Sawyer was present to oversee entries for Friday, December 29th and to approve scratches and program changes for Tuesday.

TUESDAY
12/26/23¹

OPENING DAY

Santa Anita opened its gates early and welcomed 37,143 patrons to an eleven-race card, which had a special first race post time of 11am. Chief Steward Darrel McHargue was also in attendance today and spent some time with us in the office to discuss various topics pertaining to the upcoming race-year.

12/26/23²

MALDONADO RULING

As a result of jockey Edwin Maldonado violating the crop rule on closing day of the Los Alamitos Thoroughbred meet, the following ruling was issued.

LATS RULING #01

Having violated the Horseracing Integrity and Safety Authority Rule #2280 (Use of Riding Crop) and pursuant to Horseracing Integrity and Safety Authority Rule #2282 (Riding Crop Violations and Penalties – Class 3), Jockey EDWIN MALDONADO, who rode STOLEN TREASURE in the twelfth race at Los Alamitos Race Course on December 17, 2023, is suspended for ONE (1) day (January 5, 2024), and fined TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY DOLLARS (\$250.00)* for one (1) strike over the limit.

Furthermore, Jockey EDWIN MALDONADO is assigned three (3) violation points that will be expunged on June 26, 2024, six (6) months from the date of final adjudication pursuant to Horseracing Integrity and Safety Authority Rule #2282 (Riding Crop Violations and Penalties) – first offense. Jockey EDWIN MALDONADO accrued a total of three (3) points.

Pursuant to California horse Racing Board rule #1766 (Designated Races), the term of suspension shall not prohibit participation in designated races.

12/26/23³

JOCKEY MEETING

Prior to the first race, the Stewards met with the jockeys for our traditional start-of-the-meet meeting. We covered procedures, protocols, and what is expected of the riders. Members of the veterinarian team, along with track management were also in attendance.

12/26/23⁴

CLEAR DAY OF RACING

Today's opening day card was conducted smoothly and free of any notable incidents. All late program changes and scratches are noted below.

12/26/23⁵

DECLARATIONS, CHANGES, CLAIMS AND REFUNDS

1 st Race	No Changes; Refund: \$2,205.82
2 nd Race	#2 All That Glory (Tr. T. Yakteen) Vet - sick - Dr. Bohannon Refund: \$2,823.46
3 rd Race	No Changes; Refund: \$551.52
4 th Race	#2 Uncle Reg (M. McCarthy) Stewards – Ineligible. Refund: \$2,477.50
5 th Race	#1 Khinjani (GB) (Tr. M. Glatt) Stewards - Stake #3 Grace Period (FR) (Tr. L. Powell) Stewards - Stake

Refund: \$2,451.40
 6th Race #2 Salesman (IRE) (Tr. R. Mandella) Stewards - Stake
 Refund: \$5,221.51
 7th Race No Changes; Refund: \$148.00
 8th Race #6 Matanzas Creek (Tr. T. Yakteen) Stewards - Entered back
 Refund: \$1,248.60
 9th Race #1 Reiquist (Tr. T. Yakteen) Stewards – Stake. Refund: \$1,728.60
 10th Race #1 Blessed Touch (Tr. T. Yakteen) Stewards - Stake
 Refund: \$635.90
 11th Race No Changes; Refund: \$0

12/26/23⁶

DAILY ATTENDANCE & HANDLE

On track	37,143	\$2,568,864.70
SCOTWinc	3,235	\$1,245,266.04
Out of state + ADW	N/A	\$14,193,025.99
Total	40,378	\$18,007,156.73

WEDNESDAY

12/27/23¹

DUTY STEWARD

Steward Kim Sawyer's duties continued today, overseeing entries for Saturday, December 30, 2023, as well as scratches for Friday's nine race card.

THURSDAY

12/28/23¹

DUTY STEWARD

Once again, Steward Sawyer was present to oversee entries for Sunday December 31st and to approve scratches and program changes for Tuesday.

FRIDAY

12/29/23¹

JOCKEY FILM REVIEW

Jockey Juan Hernandez came into our office to review a race from Tuesday where the Stewards believed that he violated the crop rule. The video replays proved to be inclusive, so Mr. Hernandez left our office with no penalty.

12/29/23²

INQUIRY OF THE START

Following the running of the fourth race, the Stewards posted to inquiry sign to review the actions of #1 Wishtheyallcouldbe (Tr. Sergio Morfin). After speaking to starter Jay Slender and reviewing all available angles, the Stewards ruled that the runner created her own problems, by rearing just as the doors opened. No action was taken, and Wishtheyallcouldbe was declared a starter. The five-year-old mare did recover from the poor start and rallied under jockey RICARDO GONZALEZ to just get up for second in the 6½ furlong sprint.

12/29/23³

INQUIRY / NO CHANGE

After the fifth race field crossed the finish, the Stewards posted the inquiry sign to review an incident just before the wire. The third-place finisher #8 MO FOX GIVIN' (jockey Umberto Rispoli) shifted inward, crowding horses to her inside, most notably the fourth-place finisher #6 ZONA VERDE (IRE) (jockey Juan Hernandez). After reviewing the race from multiple angles and speaking to the jockeys involved, no action was taken, and the race was made official. In a unanimous decision, the Stewards felt that the incident was close enough to the finish that it did not affect the original order of finish.

12/29/23⁴**DECLARATIONS, CHANGES, CLAIMS AND REFUNDS**

1st Race #3 Smooth Salute (Tr. M. McCarthy) claimed by Tr. A. Marquez
Refund: \$640.20

2nd Race No Changes. Refund: \$54.00

3rd Race #8 Hey Batman (Tr. F. Gonzalez) Stewards - Injured in paddock
#9 Irish Heatwave (Tr. M. Puype) Stewards - Also Eligible
#10 Raging Waters (Tr. S. Knapp) Stewards - Also Eligible
Refund: \$4,103.49

4th Race #2 Flatterwithjewels (Tr. S. Naranjo) claimed by Tr. P. D'Amato
#5 Irish Wahine (Tr. S. Knapp) claimed by Tr. G. Stute. Refund: \$3.82

5th Race No Changes; Refund: \$436.96

6th Race #6 My Partner Glen (Tr. I. Kruljac) Vet - sick - Dr. Benson
Refund: \$907.87

7th Race #3 Practically Broke (Tr. M. Glatt) Stewards - Stake
#4 Invincible (Tr. D. O'Neill) Stewards - Stake
#9 Stay Hot (Tr. P. Eurton) Stewards - Stake
Refund: \$9,674.63

8th Race No Changes. Refund: \$241.56

9th Race #11 Uncharted (Tr. R. Hanson) Stewards - Also Eligible
Refund: \$1,739.65

12/29/23⁵**DAILY ATTENDANCE & HANDLE**

On track	5,412	\$1,183,470.68
SCOTWinc	2,872	\$678,887.98
Out of state + ADW	N/A	\$7,234,482.01
Total	8,234	\$9,096,840.67

SATURDAY12/30/23¹**MORNING RAIN**

The rainstorm that hit Southern California this morning had moved through the area by 11am, so the main track was opened-up prior to the start of today's races. All scheduled turf races remained on the course that was labeled "Good", and the main track was also labeled as "Good" to start the day and would later be upgraded to "Fast" starting with the sixth race on the card.

12/30/23²**JOCKEY FILM REVIEW (ref: 12/29/23³)**

Jockey Umberto Rispoli came in to review yesterday's fifth race where his mount was the focus of an inquiry. In a majority decision, the Stewards felt that jockey Rispoli could have made a better effort to prevent his mount from shifting inward, interfering with the runners to his inside. As a result, the following ruling was issued. Steward Kim Sawyer was the dissenting vote, believing his quick reaction to correct relieved him of a penalty.

LATS Ruling #02

Jockey UMBERTO RISPOLI, who rode MO FOX GIVIN in the fifth race at Santa Anita Park on December 29, 2023, is suspended for FOUR (4) racing days (January 6, 7, 12 and 13, 2024) for failure to make the proper effort to maintain a straight course in the stretch, causing interference; a violation of California Horse Racing Board rule #1699 (Riding Rules-careless riding – second offense in the last sixty (60) days).

Pursuant to California Horse Racing Board rule #1766 (Designated Races), the term of suspension shall not prohibit participation in designated races.

12/30/23³**VOIDED CLAIM**

After failing a post-race examination by the official vet, the claim submitted by trainer Jorge Periban was voided by the Stewards and the horse Del Mar Jerry returned to the Michael McCarthy stable.

12/30/23⁴

DECLARATIONS, CHANGES, CLAIMS AND REFUND

1st Race #7 Lovesick Blues (Tr. S. Miyadi) Stewards - Entered back
Refund: \$3,643.53

2nd Race No Changes; Refund: \$0

3rd Race No Changes; Refund: \$0

4th Race #5 Zimba Warrior (Tr. S. Knapp) claimed by Tr. R. Hess, Jr.
Refund: \$2.00

5th Race #5 O K Rise (Tr. P. Eurton) jockey changed to A. Fresu
Refund: \$72.98

6th Race #1 Del Mar Jerry (Tr. M. McCarthy) claim VOIDED. Refund: \$128.56

7th Race #9 Lettheliquortalk (Tr. J. Mullins) Stewards - Track condition
Refund: \$2,651.26

8th Race No Changes. Refund: \$225.00

9th Race #2 Elevado (Tr. S. Miyadi) claimed by Tr. S. McCarthy
#6 Buck Owens (Tr. M. Valenzuela, Jr) Stewards - Track condition
#7 Crosskirk (Tr. J. Nunez) Stewards - Track condition
#11 Magnificent Ride (Tr. H. Palma) Tr. S. Naranjo
#12 Lansdowne (GB) (Tr. S. Morfin) claimed by Tr. S. Knapp
Refund: \$2,671.28

12/30/23⁵

DAILY ATTENDANCE & HANDLE

On track	5,208	\$708,843.72
SCOTWinc	3,662	\$1,452,004.36
Out of state + ADW	N/A	\$7,310,239.20
Total	8,870	\$9,471,087.28

SUNDAY
12/31/23¹

JOCKEY FILM REVIEW

Jockey Jose Verenzuela was in our office this morning to review his use of the riding crop in yesterday's second race. Video replays confirmed that Mr. Verenzuela used the crop eleven times, resulting in a class 2 violation, which is outlined in the following ruling.

LATS RULING #03

Having violated the Horseracing Integrity and Safety Authority Rule #2280 (Use of Riding Crop) and pursuant to Horseracing Integrity and Safety Authority Rule #2282 (Riding Crop Violations and Penalties – Class 2), Jockey JOSE VERENZUELA, who rode THE GIANTS CANDY in the second race at Santa Anita Park on December 30, 2023, is suspended for three (3) days (January 7, 12 and 13, 2024), and fined FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$500.00)* for five (5) strikes over the limit.

Furthermore, Jockey JOSE VERENZUELA is assigned five (5) violation points that be expunged on September 31, 2024, nine (9) months from the date of final adjudication pursuant to Horseracing Integrity and Safety Authority Rule #2282 (Riding Crop Violations and Penalties). Jockey JOSE VERENZUELA now has eight (8) points pursuant to HISA Rule #2283 (Multiple Violations) Pursuant to California Horse Racing Board rule #1766 (Designated Races), the term of suspension shall not prohibit participation in designated races.

LATC #33 issued on 10/21/23.

12/31/23²

PRAT RULING

Mr. Prat did not completely fulfill his riding engagements on yesterday's card, so the following ruling was issued.

LATS RULING #04

Jockey FLAVIEN PRAT, who was scheduled to ride #6 O K ROSE in the fifth race on December 30, 2023, at Santa Anita Park is fined TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$200.00)* for violation of California Horse Racing Board rule #1872 (Failure to Fulfill Jockey Agreement).

12/31/23³

SADDLING DELAY

As the jockeys for the fifth race were starting to mount-up, jockey Tiago Pereira noticed that it was not his saddle on his mount #8 Inner Beauty (IRE). That horse was redirected back into the saddling area, so Mr. Pereira could reweigh, and his mount outfitted with the proper saddle. Later, during the warm-up period, jockey Kazushi Kimura, aboard #2 Gypsy Lynn, alerted the outrider that his saddle was incorrect, so that horse was also sent back to the saddling area. The remaining runners stayed behind the starting gate and the jockeys dismounted until both incorrectly saddled runners rejoined them. The entire debacle delayed the start of the fifth race by eleven minutes. More to follow...

12/31/23⁴

VOIDED CLAIM

After failing a post-race examination by the official vet, the claim submitted by trainer Ed Moger, Jr. was voided by the Stewards and the horse MR. MASON was placed on the Veterinarian's list and will remain in the stable of Leobardo Rivera.

12/31/23⁵

DECLARATIONS, CHANGES, CLAIMS AND REFUNDS

1st Race #4 Sydney Street (GB) (Tr. J. Sadler) Vet - sick - Dr. Deluhery
#7 Hurricane Cloud (GB) (Tr. R. Baltas) Vet - sick - Dr. Deluhery
Refund: \$4,520.75

2nd Race #1 Grazen in the Sun (Tr. E. Moger, Jr.) claimed by Tr. M. Glatt
#4 Miss Commander (Tr. A. Marquez) claimed by Tr. G. Stute

3rd Race No Changes; Refund: \$0

4th Race No Changes; Refund: \$0

5th Race #5 O K Rise (Tr. P. Eurlon) jockey changed to A. Fresu

6th Race #4 Nauvoo (Tr. I. Kruljac) claimed by Tr. L. Barocio
#6 Mr. Mason (Tr. L. Rivera) claim VOIDED

7th Race #9 Lettheliquortalk (Tr. J. Mullins) Stewards - Track condition
Refund: \$465.58

8th Race No Changes; Refund: \$409.93

9th Race #7 Stagger Lee (Tr. S. Miyadi) Vet - sick - Dr. Pattio
Refund: \$5,409.66

12/3123⁶

DAILY ATTENDANCE & HANDLE

On track	5,549	\$752,418.91
SCOTWinc	2,962	\$1,136,122.79
Out of state + ADW	N/A	\$6,470,133.59
Total	8,511	\$8,358,675.29

MONDAY

1/1/24¹

MONDAY RACING

The new year was kicked off with a special holiday race-card consisting of nine races, featuring the Grade III Las Flores Stakes. Once again, the first race post time was set for Noon, to accommodate the nine-race card.

1/1/24²

NUNEZ RULING

Trainer Jesus Nunez failed to arrive in person to saddle his two horses on yesterday's card, nor did he procure another trainer to saddle for him, so the following ruling was issued.

LATS RULING #05

Trainer JESUS NUNEZ is fined the sum of TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$200.00)* for failure to be present in the paddock to saddle the horse ICE QUEEN in the fifth race and the horse TOM BOMBADIL in the sixth race at Santa Anita Park on December 31, 2023; a violation of California Horse Racing Board rule #1894 (Duties of trainer).

1/1/24³

ESPINOZA RULING

As a result of jockey Victor Espinoza violating the crop rule in yesterday's eighth, the following ruling was issued.

LATS RULING #06

Having violated the Horseracing Integrity and Safety Authority Rule #2280 (Use of Riding Crop) and pursuant to Horseracing Integrity and Safety Authority Rule #2282 (Riding Crop Violations and Penalties – Class 3), Jockey VICTOR ESPINOZA, who rode ARROWTHEGREAT in the eighth race at Santa Anita Park on December 31, 2023, is suspended for ONE (1) day (January 12, 2024), and fined TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY DOLLARS (\$250.00)* for one (1) strike over the limit.

Furthermore, Jockey VICTOR ESPINOZA is assigned three (3) violation points that will be expunged on July 1, 2024, six (6) months from the date of final adjudication pursuant to Horseracing Integrity and Safety Authority Rule #2282 (Riding Crop Violations and Penalties) – first offense. Jockey VICTOR ESPINOZA accrued a total of three (3) points.

Pursuant to California horse Racing Board rule #1766 (Designated Races), the term of suspension shall not prohibit participation in designated races.

1/1/24⁴

MEETING WITH VALETS

The three valets involved in yesterday's fifth race saddling errors, met with the Stewards this morning to explain what happened. David Penada, who works for both jockeys, along with the two valets that saddled the two runners. Mr. Penada took full responsibility for the mix-up, stating that after the two riders weighed-out, he inadvertently placed the saddles in the opposite boxes, that are located in close proximity. He vowed to double-check his work in the future, in hopes of this ever happening again.

1/1/24⁵

INQUIRY / NO CHANGE

Following the running of the seventh race, the Stewards posted the inquiry sign to review an incident near the eighth pole, where #4 Don't Swear Dave (jockey Mario Gutierrez) had to steady sharply, while racing between rivals. After reviewing all the angles and speaking to the jockeys involved, the Stewards let the original order of finish stand. The Stewards unanimously agreed that #4 Don't Swear Dave initiated the contact that resulted in the bumping incident.

1/1/24⁶

DECLARATIONS, CHANGES, CLAIMS AND REFUNDS

1 st Race	No Changes; Refund: \$0
2 nd Race	No Changes; Refund: \$20.00
3 rd Race	#6 With Love (GB) (Tr. P. D'Amato) claimed by Tr. J. Sadler Refund: \$58.00
4 th Race	#6 Aint No Joke (Tr. P. D'Amato) Vet - sick - Dr. Benson Refund: \$995.91
5 th Race	No Changes; Refund: \$100.00
6 th Race	#2 She's My Niece (Tr. D. O'Neill) claimed by Tr. M. Ortiz, Sr. #9 Envisioned (Tr. P. Eurton) Vet - sick - Dr. Pattio Refund: \$1,004.16

7th Race No Changes; Refund: \$0
8th Race No Changes; Refund: \$0
9th Race #1 Sweet Gem (Tr. G. Papaprodromou) - Stewards - Injured gate
Refund: \$47,318.80

1/1/24⁷

DAILY ATTENDANCE & HANDLE

On track	9,092	\$1,015,723.72
SCOTWinc	2,984	\$1,152,418.99
Out of state + ADW	N/A	\$6,908,418.08
Total	12,076	\$9,076,560.79

SUMMARY

	Tues 12/26	Fri 12/29	Sat 12/30	Sun 12/31	Mon 1/1	Week	Meet
Accidents	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cal-Bred Races	1	1	2	1	1	6	6
Claims	0	6	4	3	2	15	15
Disqualification	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Inquiries	0	2	0	0	1	3	3
Refunds	10	9	7	4	6	36	36
Rulings	1	0	1	2	2	6	6
Voided Claims	0	0	1	1	0	2	2

VETERINARIAN REPORT – WEEK OF 12/26/23 TO 12/31/23

Horses on Vet List 19
Horses off Vet List 21
Shock Wave Therapy 1
Fatalities 0
Medication 0

David Nuesch, Steward

Luis Jauregui, Steward

Kim Sawyer, Steward

Paul Atkinson, Safety Steward

BOS:DN:dw